ALA MOANA REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN

AWAY WITH THE WALKWAY?

City Council members threaten to take away funds for a promenade proposal that would alter parking

By Gordon Y.K. Pang
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A contentious plan for a widened Ala Moana Regional Park pedestrian promenade — which would result in the elimination of parking stalls along the makai side of Ala Moana Park Drive — may be on the way out.

Key members of the City Council Parks, Community and Customer Services Committee on Tuesday said they will remove any funding the administration might have tied to the idea, which is part of the Ala Moana Regional Park Master Plan.

"This park has been there for years, and we have to protect it for the people," Parks Chairwoman Ann Kobayashi said. "So I'm sure we'll be combing through the budget to make sure that there's no money for a promenade."

Councilman Trevor Ozawa, who represents the Ala Moana area, said he and Ala Moana parkgoers like some of the other ideas that are part of the master plan, such as the inclusion of park rangers, renovating of comfort stations, the new irrigation system for park lawns, the filling of potholes and the cleaning of rocks on the beach.

"Those are all positives" that up to 90 percent of the project's opponents are OK with, he said. "And they understand they're not going to get everything that they want as well. … It's really the parking issue that's top of mind."

Meanwhile, Parks Director

Please see **ALA MOANA,** *A10*

The photograph at left shows the current walkway at Ala Moana Beach Park, and the rendering at right shows a proposed pedestrian promenade.

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Lawmakers want to dedicate $30M to the creation of homeless 'safe zones'

LOCAL / B1

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SOUKI TO RESIGN

The former House speaker will leave office to resolve harassment complaints filed against him

By Kevin Dayton
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Former House Speaker Joseph Souki will be required by the Hawaii State Ethics Commission to resign from office next week to resolve a complaint involving accusations from multiple women who allege they were the targets of his unwanted advances that included sexual comments, touching and kissing, according to people familiar with the agreement.

Souki, a two-time speaker of the House who has been a powerful figure in Hawaii politics for decades, was first accused of inappropriate conduct by former Director of Human Services Rachael Wong, who filed allegations against him with the commission last fall.

After the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported on that complaint, at least four other women came forward with similar allegations against Souki, Wong said in an interview.

Souki, 84, has not commented on the accusations against him

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INSIDE

>> Rachael Wong says other women have shared their stories of harassment with her. **A3**

STAR-ADVERTISER

2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Lawmakers proposing paid family leave for all workers

By Nanea Kalani
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Hawaii workers would have access to several weeks of paid time off for the birth or adoption of a child or to care for a family member under proposed legislation advancing in both the House and Senate.

While some employers offer paid family leave benefits, federal and state laws mandate only certain employers to provide unpaid leave for eligible family and medical reasons.

Under the federal Family Medical Leave Act, public agencies and employers with 50 or more workers have to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave annually. The Hawaii Family Leave Law also requires companies with 100 or more employees to provide up to four weeks of unpaid family leave a year.

Senate Bill 2990 and House Bill 2598 would pave the way for a state-managed paid family leave program. The nearly identical bills direct the state Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to come up with administrative rules by Jan. 1, 2020, to "establish and codify paid family leave for all workers in the state."

The bills say the rules would need to create a program that includes coverage for all employees of employers that employ one or more

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